

# Commander's corner

By Col Tom Deppe

341st Space Wing commander

Is everyone still having fun? Remember, if you're not having fun, come see me. So far, so good with the Nuclear Surety Inspection/Operational Readiness Inspection. We had a few speed bumps early on but things have really smoothed out and we're running hot. Like I told you before this started, just do your jobs the way you always do and we'll do great. I think we're proving that. The Air Force Space Command Inspector General is Brig Gen (select) Dick Webber. Col Webber was stationed here in the mid-90s as the Support Group Commander, and then as the Operations Group Commander. He has since commanded two wings, the 321st Space Wing at Grand Forks and the 50th Space Wing at Schriever AFB, Colorado. I'm sure he is enjoying seeing a lot of old faces and some of the facility improvements that he helped establish.

The Inspector General outbrief is scheduled for 1000, Monday, in the 3-Bay Hangar. After the brief, stick around for lunch—it will be a great time to celebrate all of your hard work and a job well done. **Colonel Tim Roberts**, the Vice Commander of 20th Air Force, will be here for the outbrief. This will be his last visit to Malmstrom while on active duty. He retires on July 6th. Say hello, if you know him. He was stationed here in the mid-to-late 70s as a maintenance officer and crewmember...and wing commander executive officer.

Congratulations to the following award winners: AFSPC 2000 Maintenance Award - **TSgt David Doremus**, 341st Logistics Support Squadron (NCO category) and **SrA Alexis Miranda**, 341st Maintenance Squadron (Airman category). In addition, **TSgt Louis Rognotti**, 341 MSS, was selected as the 20 AF ICBM Maintenance Technician of the Month, May 2001. Great job and well-deserved!

I'd also like to welcome home **1st Lt Summer Koons**, 341st Communications Squadron, from her TDY to compete in the Armed Forces Volleyball Championship in

Hawaii. The Air Force Team took first place in the tournament and Summer was selected as the most valuable player. Afterward, she played on the Armed Forces Team in the U.S. National Volleyball Championship in Wisconsin, winning second place. Later, she was recognized as an All-American in Volleyball. Congratulations, Summer, on your truly outstanding achievements!

On Monday, after the Inspector General outbrief, Eileen and I will drive to F.E. Warren AFB to attend the 90th Space Wing change of command ceremony from Brig Gen (select) Roger Burg to Colonel Tom Shearer.

Afterward, we'll travel to Peterson AFB to retire Lt Col Jose (Joe) Costas. Many of you may remember Joe and Cuca Costas from when he was the chief of Quality Assurance in our Logistics Group. Joe, Cuca, their daughter Christy and son CJ are long-time friends of ours and I was particularly honored when he asked me to be his retirement official. As soon as his ceremony is over, we will hop back in the car to drive home, because we have some big-time events here late next week.

On Thursday afternoon, the Support Group is hosting a farewell party for **Colonel Scott and Lucy Graham**. I can't even begin to say how sorry we are to see Scott and Lucy leave. They both have been tremendous additions to TEAM

MALMSTROM, on and off duty. Their style of "out-front" leadership has been the catalyst for nearly every good thing that has happened since my arrival. Lucy's contributions have been endless and we all will miss her. She will be especially missed by Eileen and the other senior officer wives...not to mention the other senior officers. Scott and Lucy are leaving to go to Air War College at Maxwell AFB, Alabama. Scott will be the Class 2002 President and be on his way to much more responsibility in our Air Force. He is one of the most capable officers I know and the Air Force must continue to give him the biggest leadership challenges.

On Friday morning, we will conduct the retirement ceremony for long-time TEAM MALMSTROM member and, now, Great Falls citizen **Col Chip Beck**. Chip completed his Air Force career on the faculty at Air War

College as the Chairperson for Space Programs. I offered Chip the opportunity to retire at the place he and Lynn spent their two most rewarding assignments. Chip started his career here with me in 1977 and returned in 1996 as the Operations Group Commander. It is one of the highest honors of my career to officiate at Chip and Lynn Beck's ceremony...the missileer's missileer.

Later on Friday, we will host the opening reception for the Montana Economic Development Summit at the Club. Unfortunately, it means that we will have to close the Club for normal business, but I think you'll understand when I describe it to you. Instead of the Club for Friday evening Social Hour (Major Terwilliger told me I can't say Happy Hour), Aces High Bowling Entertainment Center will host Social Hour. Great heavy hors'd'ouvers, and good beverages to wrap up the week will be served. Additionally, the monthly NCO and Senior NCO induction ceremony will be held in the Base Auditorium next door, so walk over to the Aces High for a promotion celebration.

The Montana Economic Development Summit is hosted by Senators Baucus and Burns, Congressman Rehberg, and Governor Martz...all may be here Friday for the event at the Club along with 800-1,000 people from all over the state and country (See, I knew you'd understand why the Club was closed). This gives us a great opportunity to show off Malmstrom AFB and what we contribute to Great Falls and the state. Many of these people are life-long Montanans and have never seen our base, so we plan to put on a great show. Many of you will be involved in the activities and many of you won't. I ask all of you next week to pay special attention to making the base look spotless. Thanks in advance.

In preparation for this event we are doing some landscaping at the Club. An enormous Thank You to the Civil Engineer Squadron for tackling this last minute project. On Tuesday night of this week, I walked over to talk to the Airmen and NCOs (**SSgt Michael Forister**, **SSgt Cris Dunn**, **SrA Jody Marks**, **AIC Terry Fryery** and **AIC Craig Nordman**) that were moving dirt and they were really enthused about doing this, even though they had been at work all day. **SSgt Marks** told me that he and his crew were glad to help out to get the area ready for Col Graham's farewell party. I didn't have the heart to tell him that wasn't the reason...especially after he told me that he thought Col Graham was the youngest looking Colonel he had ever seen. I probably wasn't even a close second.

Best of everything to Scott and Lucy as they make their way across America to Alabama. Eileen and I will truly miss our Husker fan buds. Have a safe trip...and everyone else be safe too and enjoy the Montana summer.



Courtesy photo

Once again, Col Tom Deppe takes a leadership role with Col Scott Graham, 341st Support Group commander.

## Letter from Sec Roche to servicemembers

I was recently sworn in as your 20th secretary of the Air Force and became, on that day, a proud member of a magnificent team of active duty airmen, guardsmen, reservists, and civilian employees.

You have earned the admiration of our nation, the respect of the world, and the promise of a bright future. I already can tell you that you should be enormously proud of your achievements, from combat operations over Iraq and the Balkans to your recent validation of the Expeditionary Aerospace Force concept.

In the realm of aerospace power, you fly

the best, train the best, and maintain the best. As you put it: "No One Comes Close."

We must now turn our focus to the journey ahead, and be responsive to this new century's emerging security environment. I look forward to piloting that journey with you. My focus is on developing new strategies for military aerospace power in this new millennium; improving Air Force retention, professional education and leadership and development; eliminating the inefficiencies in how we do our business; and developing our acquisition policies and processes to ensure innova-

tion and competitive vibrancy within our defense industrial base over the long haul.

My vision is an aerospace future just as remarkable as your admired past: undeniable and global reconnaissance and strike superiority. My pledge to you is that I will serve the way you do every day, worldwide — with integrity, selflessness and in earnest pursuit of excellence.

In 1963, President Kennedy said of military service: "I can imagine no more rewarding career. And any man who may be asked in this century what he did to make his life worthwhile, I think can respond with

a good deal of pride and satisfaction: 'I served in the United States Navy.'"

That sentiment rings very true for me. As you know, I am deeply proud of my Navy career. But, today we are in a new century, with new opportunities, new challenges, new capabilities, and vastly different threats to the security of our great nation. In this century, men and women can respond with a good deal of pride and satisfaction: "I serve in the United States Air Force." And now, I am proud to be able to say that too.

**James Roche**, Secretary of the Air Force